

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SCA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /068 W

----- 099215

P R 111456Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8286

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRISSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 9363

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: PCE (SANTIAGO CARRILLO)

REF: MADRID 9231

1. WE REPORTED IN REFTLE (NOTAL)CARRILLO HAD DEMONSTRATED BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT THAT HE WAS IN SPAIN BY HOLDING A "CLANDESTINE" PRESS CONFERENCE IN DOWNTOWN MADRID ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 70 MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL PRESS. THE CONTENTS WERE DULL, EXCPET FOR A BIT OF HUBRIS WHEN HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE PCE HAD LIFTED ITS "VETO" OVER ESTABLISHMENT OF SPAIN EASTERN EUROPE AND SPAIN MEXICO RELATIONS. (WE HAVE ALWAYS ASSUMED THE SOVIET ATTITUDE IS NOT CONDITIONED BY THE PCE, BUT THIS REMARK MIGHT FORESHADOW AN EARLY SOVIET MOVE TOWARDS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. (WHICH THE PCE HAD LEARNED OF).

2. LAST NIGHT THE GOVT REACTED AND UNDERSECRETARY OF PUBLIC  
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ORDER FELIX HERNANDEZ TOLD THE PRESS THE GO'S POSITION HAS

NOT CHANGED. SPAIN HAD NOT GIVEN CARRILLO A PASSPORT AND HE WAS ILLEGALLY IN THE COUNTRY. WHEN ASKED WHAT ACTION THE GOS WOULD TAKE, HERNANDEZ REPLIED THAT THE ACTION ESTABLISHED IN RESPECT OF ALL PERSONS WHO CLANDESTINELY AND ILLEGALLY ENTER SPAIN IS TO FIND AND ARREST THEM. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO ANY OTHER CHARGES THAT THEY MAY FACE. (PRESS REPORTS INDICATE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR DEFENSE AFFAIRS GUTIERREZ MELLADO, MINISTER OF INTERIOR MARTIN VILLA AND SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS STAYED BEHIND AFTER YESTERDAY'S CABINET MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE AND THE STATEMENT IS PRESUMABLY A RPRODUCT OF THAT DISCUSSION.)

3. WE ARE FOND OF SAYING THE SPANISH SITUATION IS COMPLEX BUT THE CARRILLO ISSUE IS MORE THAN COMPLEX, IT IS A BIT OF A MYSTERY. DESPITE EARLIER GOVT DENIALS, INCLUDING SOME PRIVATE ONES, THAT THEY KNEW CARRILLO WAS IN SPAIN. (THOUGH IT WAS POSSIBLE HE MIGHT SLIP IN AND OUT CLANDESTINELY) IT SEEMS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT THE GOS TACITLY TOLERATED HIS OFF AND ON PRESENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, PUBLIC ORDER SERVICES HERE ARE NOT NOTED FOR POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION SO THE PCE MUST HAVE SMUGGLED HIM ABOUT IN GREAT SECRECY IN ORDER TO AVOID THE POLICE STUMBLING ON HIM. THE PRESS CONFERENCE THOUGH SET UP IN SECRECY, IS AN OPEN ACT NOT DEFIANCE OF THE GOS BAN ON HIS PRESENCE.

4. SO FAR AS CARRILLO'S MOTIVES ARE CONCERNED IN OPENLY ADVERTISING HIS PRESENCE, WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE. CERTAINLY IT PUTS PRESSURE ON THE PCE LEGALIZATION ISSUE. IF HE WANTS TO GET ARRESTED WHICH WE DO KNOW, IT WOULD STEM FROM A COMBINATION OF EXTRNAL AND INTERNAL PARTY LOGIC. ARREST AND JAIL OR EXPLUSION WOULD EMBARRASS THE GOVT IN EUROPE AND PUT A LITTLE STEAM INTO AN APPARENTLY FLAGGING ABSTENTION CAMPAIGN

AGAINST THE DECEMBER 15 REFEREDNUM. THE LATEST POLL RELEASED FRIDAY (AND, AS ALWAYS OF UNCERTAIN RELIABILITY) SUGGEST THAT THE LEVEL OF PARICIPATION IS GOING TO BE HIGHER (ARROUND 78 PER CENT THAN EARLIER EXPECTED). THE COMMUNIST PARTY LOST THE LIMELIGHT ON THE LEFT TO THE SOCIALIST (PSOE) THE PCE'S CONTINUING RIVARLY WITH THE PSOE BENEFITS FROM CATTILLO'S EXPOSURE AND FROM THE PRESSURE CONFIDENTIAL

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IT WOULD PUT ON THE PSOE, SHOULD CARRILLO BE ARRESTED. (NOT ONLY THE PSOE, BUT ALL OPPOSITION CAN BE EXPECTED TO PRO TEST CARRILO'S ARREST). STROIES CONTUINE THAT CARRILLO'S LEADERSHIP OF THE PCE IS IN MODEST JEOPARDY AND ARREST WOULD HELP HIM IN WHATEVER LEADERSHIP WUARRELS MAY BE OCCURING.

5. WE ASSUME THE GOVT WOULD PREFER NOT TO ARREST HIM AT

LEAST UNTIL AFTER WEDNESDAY REFERENDUM, BUT CARRILLO COULD  
TRY TO GE HIMSELF UP. ONE CAN ARGUE THAT THE GOS  
SHOULD MOT ARREST HIM. THE MORE PUBLIC EXPOSURE CARRILLO  
GES THE MORE OLD HAT HE BECOMES, AND MANY SPANIARDS  
ARGUE HE SHOULD BE DEMYTHIFIED. BUT THE MILITARY AN  
POLICE ARE NOTLIKELY TO SEE THE ISSUE WITH THAT DGREE OF  
POLITICAL SPOHISTICATION. CARRILO IS AN EXAMPLY, NOT ONLY  
OF COMMUNISM, BUT OF COMMUNISTS BARARITIES WITH THE PARACEULELLOS  
EXECUTIONS. IF THE GOS EXPELS HIM. WE ASSUME HE MAY SIMPLY  
COME BACK.STABLER

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## Message Attributes

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